

# VA Health Services Research & Development Service

## Online Orientation Guide

Welcome to VA's Health Services Research and Development Service. VA HSR&D has many online resources to support investigators' work within the VA research community.

### Using the HSR&D Website

The [HSR&D website](#) is the go-to resource for information for investigators, staff, and the general public. This guide offers a brief overview to key sections and resources.

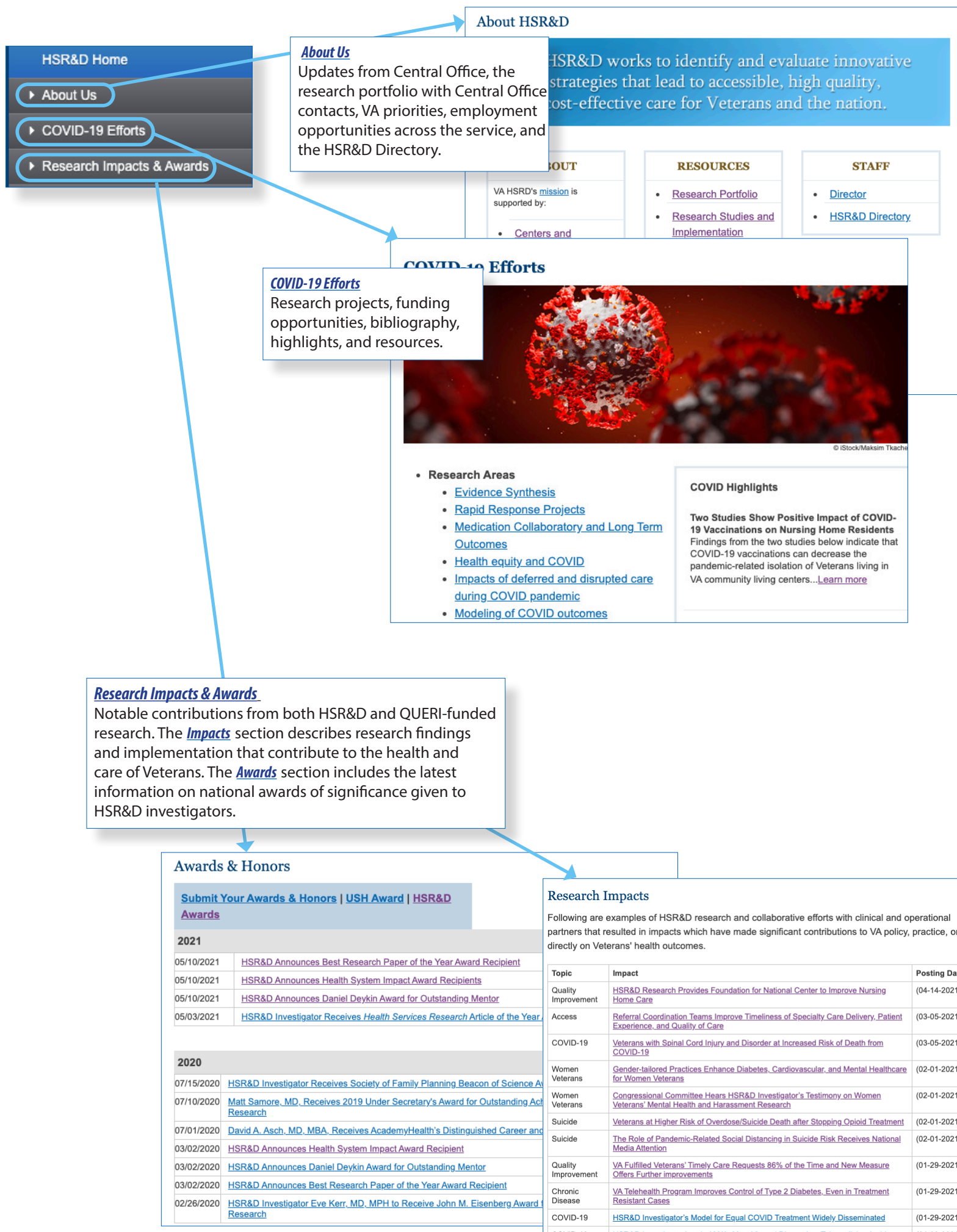
### HSR&D Main Landing Page

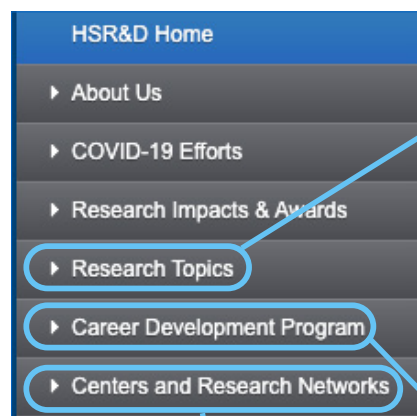
The [HSR&D website's main landing page](#) is updated regularly with a monthly feature and corresponding topic spotlight with links and a rotating slide show banner. Check out the "What's New" section in the center, where new announcements, news, publications, research briefs, and research impacts are regularly posted.

The screenshot displays the VA HSR&D website interface. At the top, the VA logo and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs name are visible, along with a search bar labeled "Search HSR&D" and a "Contact VA" link. Below the header, navigation links for "Veterans Benefits and Health Care", "About VA", and "Find a VA Location" are present. The main content area features a large banner with the text "ACCESS DELIVERY VETERANS CARE COST IMPLEMENTATION QUALITATIVE INVESTIGATOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER STUDY POLICY RESEARCH TOPICS". A callout box titled "Targeted Search" points to the search bar, stating: "The search feature at the top of every page on the HSR&D website is different than site search in many VA websites. HSR&D's site search tool is optimized to return more targeted, relevant results." On the left, a "Left Navigation Bar and Sections Menu" is shown, listing various sections such as "About Us", "COVID-19 Efforts", "Research Impacts & Awards", "Research Topics", "Career Development Program", "Centers and Research Networks", "Cyberseminars", "Partnered Research", "For Managers", "For Researchers", "For Veterans", "Funding", "Meetings", "News | Features | Multimedia", "Publications & Briefs", and "Studies & Citations". A callout box titled "Left Navigation Bar and Sections Menu" points to this menu, stating: "The left navigation is regularly updated and houses the main site sections." The main content area also includes a "What's New" section with recent publications and features, and a "HSR&D Research Topics" section with a description of automated research findings. At the bottom, there are links to "GO TO THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT WEBSITE" and "LOOKING FOR THE QUERI WEBSITE? CLICK HERE!".

**Targeted Search**  
The search feature at the top of every page on the HSR&D website is different than site search in many VA websites. HSR&D's site search tool is optimized to return more targeted, relevant results.

**Left Navigation Bar and Sections Menu**  
The left navigation is regularly updated and houses the main site sections.





## Research Topics

Curated access to 25 discrete topics of importance in VA health services research. These topics are continuously (automatically) updated with current HSR&D studies, citations, publication briefs, reports, newsletters, topic spotlights, Cyberseminars, videos, or other resources.

## HSR&D Research Topics

Our researchers address multiple healthcare topics including: patient care, health outcomes, cost and quality, post-deployment health, mental illness, long-term care, and chronic diseases. However, sometimes it can be challenging for busy VA managers to find the latest information on an important

assist in this search, [click below on your topic of interest to find citations, reports, cyberseminars, videos, or other products and](#)

atically updated on a weekly basis.

[tion](#)  
[e](#)  
[upport](#)

6. [Chronic Disease](#)
7. [Complementary and Integrative Health](#)
8. [eHealth](#)
9. [Health Equity](#)
10. [Hepatitis C](#)
11. [Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\)](#)
12. [Homelessness](#)
13. [Implementation Science](#)
14. [Infectious Disease](#)
15. [Long-Term Care](#)

## Today's Career Development Awardees are tomorrow's research leaders.

### Investigator Spotlight



[Teresa M. Damush, PhD](#)

## Career Development Program

Guidelines and resources; lists and bios of current awardees and research career scientists; projects and publications lists; and Office of Academic Affiliations Fellowship information and links.

M

was established  
rchers so they

can learn from renowned, experienced VA researchers... [Learn more](#)

- [Guidelines and Resources](#)
- [Orientation to the CDA program](#) (Cyberseminar series )
- [Career Development Review Committee](#)
- [CDA Resource Toolkit](#) - resources for

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

- [Awardees](#)
- [Alumni](#)
- [OAA Awards](#)

### RESEARCH CAREER SCIENTIST

- [Award](#)
- [Awardees](#)

### CDA CYBERSEMINAR SERIES

## VA HSR&D Centers

## Research Centers and Networks

Many useful links to collaborative research across HSR&D: Centers of Innovation (COINs); Consortia of REsearch (COREs); HSR&D Resource Centers; and research networks in areas such as community care, Veterans' caregivers, EHRM, mobile applications, and women Veterans' health.

4 Resource Centers, and 1 Centralized

service  
(INs). The  
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ard (REAP)

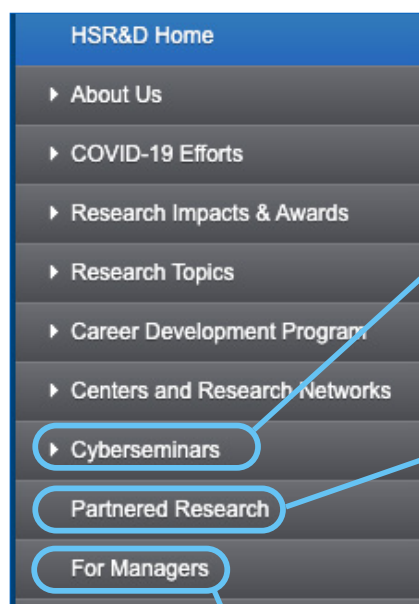


[VA HSR&D Partnerships: Research & Operations video \(2:06\)](#)

The COIN program rewards research innovations and partnerships to ensure that research has the greatest possible impact on VHA policies, healthcare practices, and health outcomes for Veterans. A unique feature of the COINs is that they include one or more focused areas of research that addresses questions of significance to VHA clinical and operational partners, and these partners will be engaged in the research activities of the COINs.

- Ann Arbor, MI: [Center for Clinical Management Research \(CCMR\)](#)
- Bedford, MA and Boston, MA: [Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research \(CHOIR\)](#)
- Charleston, SC: [Charleston Health Equity and Rural Outreach Innovation Center \(HEROIC\)](#)
- Durham, NC: [Center of Innovation to Accelerate Discovery and Practice Transformation \(ADAPT\)](#)
- Hines, IL: [Center of Innovation for Complex Chronic Healthcare \(CINCCCH\)](#)
- Houston, TX: [Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety \(IQESt\)](#)
- Indianapolis, IN: [Center for Health Information and Communication \(CHIC\)](#)
- Iowa City, IA: [Center for Comprehensive Access & Delivery Research and Evaluation \(CADRE\)](#)
- Los Angeles, CA: [Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation and Policy \(CSHIIP\)](#)
- Minneapolis, MN: [Center for Care Delivery and Outcomes Research \(CCDOR\)](#)





## VA HSR&amp;D Cyberseminars

Cyberseminars

Free training, education, and updates on HSR&D's state-of-the-art research and data use via WebEx live. All presentations are archived and available 24/7. Registration links for upcoming Cyberseminars, along with detailed series and session descriptions.



**HSR&D's Cyberseminars:** state-of-the-art training and special interest sessions via live web conferences and 24/7 on-demand archived presentations.

Sign up for Cyberseminar Updates!

## UPCOMING SESSIONS

[\[VIEW ALL\]](#)

- **Focus on Health Equity and Action:**  
[Selected Findings: National Veteran Health Equity Report 2021](#) - 5/12/2021, 12:00pm EST

## Partnered Research

Partnered research involves activities where researchers and practitioners work together, with research both to solve practical problems and to contribute to partner with healthcare teams and systems to increase the relevance and national imperatives and care delivery. The learning health care system in the research and development process by researchers with on-the-ground clinicians, as well as patients and caregivers, to innovative discoveries.

Partnered Research

HSR&D supports partnered research training, embedded research activities, and fellowships. HSR&D also supports the [Researchers and Evaluators in Residence](#) program with partners in VISNs and VA Central Office.

research and HSR&D contributes to partnered research within VA, such as by offering advanced fellowships in research and through the s in Residence program; supporting a Career Development Program; collaborating with program offices and operational partners in developing research priorities; conducting state-of-the-art expert conferences; and funding Consortia of Research (COREs) and the Research to Impact for Veterans (RIVRs) initiative. Partnered research is advanced, as well, through implementation science conducted by the Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI).

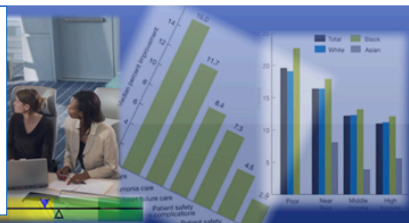
In an effort to improve the impact of these activities and contribute to a Learning Healthcare System at VA, HSR&D is collaborating in three areas. HSR&D and the Office of Academic Affiliations are fostering improvements to the HSR&D advanced fellowship guidelines and processes. HSR&D is contributing to a partnered research training and certification program undertaken by the Society for General Internal Medicine (SGIM). HSR&D also participates in efforts to promote embedded research.

<sup>1</sup> Overleit J, Hempel S, Magnabosco JL, Mittman BS, Rubenstein LV, Ganz DA. Guidance for research-practice partnerships (R-PPs) and collaborative research. *J Health Organ Manag*. 2014;28(1):115-126.

## For Managers

For Managers

Provides links to research by topic and center, by Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs). Also includes recent research impacts, publication briefs, and citations.



## Search

- [Publication Briefs](#)
- [Research Studies](#)
- [Citations Database](#)
- [HSR&D Directory](#)

## HSR&amp;D RESEARCH



VA HSR&D Partnerships: Research & Operations video (2:06)

- View HSR&D [Research Topics](#)
- Learn about the [CREATE Initiative](#)
- Learn about the [COIN Initiative](#)

## HSR&amp;D IMPACTS

Quality Improvement: [HSR&D Research Provides Foundation for National Center to Improve Nursing Home Care](#) (04-14-2021)

Access: [Referral Coordination Teams Improve Timeliness of Specialty Care Delivery, Patient Experience, and Quality of Care](#) (03-05-2021)

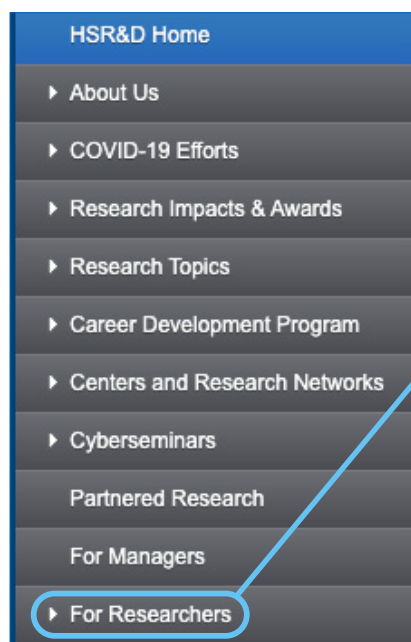
COVID-19: [Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury and Disorder at Increased Risk of Death from COVID-19](#) (03-05-2021)

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Management Brief: [Primary Care Engagement among Veterans with Experiences of Homelessness and Serious Mental Illness: An Evidence Map](#) (05-04-2021)

Management Brief: [Systematic Review: Population and Community-based Interventions to Prevent Suicide](#) (05-03-2021)

Veterans' Perspectives : [VOICE Study Partners with Veteran Engagement Panel to Improve](#)



## For Researchers

This section contains various resources of interest to VA-funded researchers: funding announcements, policies and guidance, and more. Keep in mind that many specific questions about funding and review process are best asked first at the local research office.

### For Researchers

A variety of resources of interest to VA-funded researchers, including: Funding announcements; policies and guidance; clinical trials registration links; publication notification and attribution/disclaimer; awards to researchers; a searchable HSR&D directory; the Dimensions for VA research analytics tool; searchable databases of HSR&D studies and citations; and Veterans' engagement toolkit.

### DIMENSIONS FOR VA: A NEW RESEARCH ANALYTICS TOOL



Dimensions for VA is a web-based SaaS (Software-as-a-Service) tool that will help VA researchers and their VA partners navigate the universe of published research and funded projects. It is an innovative research database that connects over 117 million publications, 6 million awarded grants, 135 million patents, 620,000 clinical trials and 580,000 policy documents to deliver an unparalleled look at research globally. For more information about how to login, see our [FAQ](#) (copy and paste URL into your browser if you are on the VA network): <https://research.va.gov/dimensions/>.

### FUNDING

- [Funding](#) - RFAs, IIR, Reporting Guidelines, Submission Calendar...
- [Career Development Program](#)
- [Scientific Merit Review Board](#)

### VINCI

[VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure \(VINCI\)](#) is an HSRD Resource Center dedicated to facilitating research in the VA by providing data, analytical tools, services, education, and computing resources.

### AWARDS

- [All Awards](#)
- [USH Award](#)
- [Award Notification](#)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



### Dimensions for VA

Research analysis and profile tool that allows for highly targeted search to identify research experts; find published research and its associated grants; clinical trials; policy documents; authors; and coauthors.

- If on the VA network (including VPN), log-in is not needed to access the tool. However, logging in with a va.gov email address allows for saving searches.
- Creating a login with a VA email—and using a verification code sent to that email—allows access to the VA version of Dimensions from any web browser/location.

For an overview of Dimensions, visit the [Dimensions Resources page](#) on the VA intranet.

**Dimensions for VA**

United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) | 1117 Public Health and Health Sciences

Save / Export | Workflow | Support | Maria He...

ANALYTICAL VIEWS

**FILTERS** | FAVORITES

GROUPS

START YEAR

ACTIVE YEAR

GRANT STATUS

RESEARCHER

FUNDER

United States Department of Veterans Affairs: 1,401

COUNTRY OF FUNDER

RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

LOCATION - RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

RESEARCH CATEGORIES

FIELDS OF RESEARCH

11 Medical and Health Sciences: 1,401

1117 Public Health and Health Sciences: 367

1103 Clinical Sciences: 253

17 Psychology and Cognitive Sciences: 253

1701 Psychology: 253

1102 Cardiorespiratory Medicine: 59

1109 Neurosciences: 47

08 Information and Computing Sciences: 39

**PUBLICATIONS** 12,728 | **DATASETS** 244 | **GRANTS** 1,401 | **PATENTS** 22 | **CLINICAL TRIALS** 535

**POLICY DOCUMENTS**

Title, Funder, Investigator

Development of a Novel Couples-Based Suicide Intervention Relationships and Safety Together (TR&ST)

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

to CHANDRA KHALIFIAN

Background: Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the United States with suicide rates among U.S. military veterans doubling (27.7 percent) since 1990.

Improving Vocational Outcomes of Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

to BRIAN STEVENSON

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) offers robust vocational rehabilitation services to help veterans obtain competitive employment, however, the effectiveness of these services is still under review.

Quality of Mental Health Services for Homeless Veterans

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

to AUDREY L. JONES

Background: My long-term goal is to become an independent VA clinician focused on designing and testing integrated care solutions to improve the mental health of homeless veterans.

An eHealth intervention to increase depression treatment adherence among Veterans referred for mental health services

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

to VANESSA PANAIATE

## Dimensions for VA

Home | HSR&D Internet | Dimensions for VA

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to VANESSA PANAIATE

## Want to get started right away?

<https://va.dimensions.ai>

Access Dimensions for VA directly from anywhere (it's on the Internet).

- From the VA network (incl. VPN) you don't even need to log in with your @va.gov email

## What is Dimensions for VA?

Dimensions for VA is a web-based SaaS (Software-as-a-Service) tool that HSR&D and OIT have procured to help VA researchers and their VA partners navigate the universe of published research and funded projects. It is an innovative research database that connects over 117 million publications, 6 million awarded grants, 135 million patents, 620,000 clinical trials and 580,000 policy documents to deliver an unparalleled look at research globally. Based on the off-the-shelf Dimensions Plus platform, Dimensions for VA adds the crucial feature of **filtering and displaying VA-related data** – informing not only discovery, but making related analysis more efficient than ever for VA research.

## Resources

- [VA Quick Start Guide](#) (specific to VA's version of the tool)

[Intranet for Researchers](#) (general information)


**HSR&D Home**

- ▶ About Us
- ▶ COVID-19 Efforts
- ▶ Research Impacts & Awards
- ▶ Research Topics
- ▶ Career Development Program
- ▶ Centers and Research Networks
- ▶ Cyberseminars
- Partnered Research
- For Managers
- ▶ For Researchers
- For Veterans**
- ▶ Funding
- ▶ Meetings

**For Veterans**

Highlights HSR&D research in various media, showcasing the importance of research for Veterans and the importance of Veterans for research.

**For Veterans**



The VA Health Services Research and Development Service (HSR&D) focuses on identifying, evaluating, and implementing innovative strategies that can lead to accessible, high quality, cost-effective healthcare for Veterans and the public.

**Veterans Crisis Line** 1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
Press 1

VETERANS' PERSPECTIVES	TOPIC SPOTLIGHT	VETERAN RESOURCES
<p>Highlights of our research showcasing the importance of research for Veterans, and the importance of Veterans for research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VOICE Study Partners with Veteran Engagement Panel to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental Health - 05-2021</li> <li>Spotlight on Minority Health - 04-2021</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">More</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>COVID-19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn about volunteering in COVID-19 research</li> <li>FAQs: What Veterans need to know</li> </ul> </li> <li>Mental Health Support</li> </ul>

**Funding**

Provides links to funding opportunities (investigator-initiated and service directed); how to apply; administrative processes; intent to submit website; merit review; and reporting guidelines.

**Pre- and Post-Funding Information**

How To Apply

set of the key information needed to apply for funding in HSR&D. For a more [How to Apply](#) and the other pages on the left-navigation.

[Submission of Research Proposals](#) (VA Intranet only – link will not work outside VA)

[\(ITS\) Website](#)

[Information Regarding HSR&D Merit Review Deadlines](#)

[Addressing EHRM in Applications](#)


[Calendar](#)

[Forms, Handbooks and Guidelines](#)

- Forms
- Just-in-Time (JIT) Process to Release Funds
- Central Office Contacts

[See complete list of documents](#)

**Meetings**



**NATIONAL CONFERENCES**

**PAST HSR&D NATIONAL CONFERENCES**

- 2019 – HSR&D/QUERI National Conference: Innovation to Impact: Research to Advance VA's Learning Healthcare Community
- 2017 – HSR&D/QUERI National Conference: Accelerating Innovation and Implementation in Health System Science
- 2015 – Health Services

**SOTA**

State of the Art Conferences (SOTAs) bring together VA and non-VA experts to: synthesize knowledge, promote implementation, and contribute to more effective management and more relevant research.

**PAST SOTAS**

- 2019 – SOTA XV: Opioid Safety
- 2018 – Care Coordination
- 2016 – Pain Management
- 2016 – Weight Management

**QUERI MEETINGS**

- 2010 – Enhancing Implementation Science in VA
- 2010 – Quality Improvement in Parallel Circuits
- 2008 – QUERI National Meeting

**OTHER MEETINGS**

- HSR&D-supported sessions at 2016 SGIM meeting
- AcademyHealth Annual

**Meetings**

Links to materials from HSR&D-QUERI National Conferences that foster collaboration and planning, and State of the Art (SOTA) expert conferences to synthesize knowledge, as well as provide practice and policy recommendations.

[Veteran Support](#)

[Center for Veterans](#)

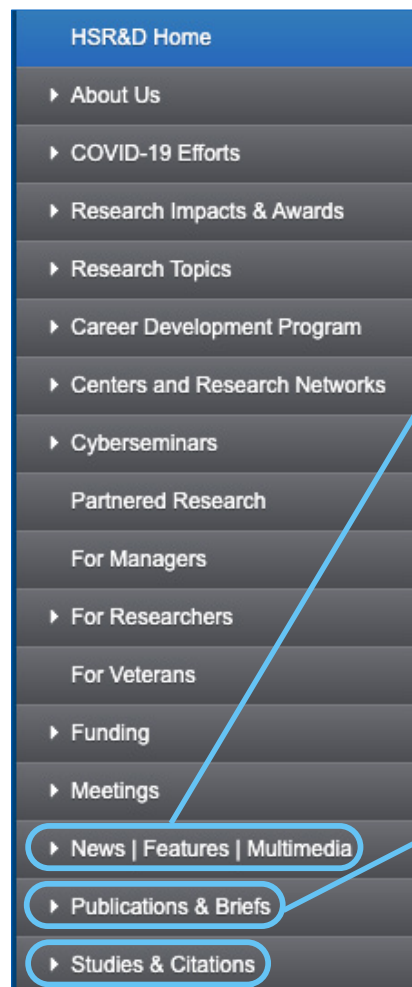
[PTSD Center](#)

[Mental Health Support](#)

[Opportunities](#)

[SMRB Orientation](#)





## HSR&D News

Latest research news, monthly features, and publications.

### News, Features, Multimedia

Find the latest HSR&D research news and monthly features; subscribe to the HSR&D electronic newsletter; and listen to investigator podcasts or watch videos.

<a href="#">Paper of the Year Award Recipient</a>	05-10-2021
<a href="#">Impact Award Recipients</a>	05-10-2021
<a href="#">Award for Outstanding Mentor</a>	05-10-2021
<a href="#">Primary Care Engagement among Veterans with Experiences of Homelessness and Serious Mental Illness: An Evidence Map - Management Brief</a> [Publication]	05-04-2021
<a href="#">Mental Health</a> [Feature]	05-03-2021
<a href="#">HSR&amp;D Investigator Receives Health Services Research Article of the Year Award</a> [Award]	05-03-2021
<a href="#">Systematic Review: Population and Community-based Interventions to Prevent Suicide - Management Brief</a> [Publication]	05-03-2021
<a href="#">VOICE Study Partners with Veteran Engagement Panel to Improve Pain Care, Reduce Harms of Opioid Therapy - Veterans' Perspectives</a>	05-03-2021

## HSR&D Publications

### Publications and Briefs

Links to the Evidence Synthesis Program. Search and subscribe to CIDER publications including FORUM, In Progress, Management Briefs, and Veterans' Perspectives.

Publication is a high priority for HSR&D.

Searches and information is one step in this process. Our efforts are twofold:

As researchers continually contribute to the body of knowledge and literature through publication of articles and reports, and at meetings and

- **Publications:** HSR&D produces a number of internal publications (both print and electronic) for broad distribution to VA managers, clinicians, researchers, and policy makers.

Search Publications:

- [Evidence Synthesis Reports](#)
- [Forum](#)
- [In Progress](#)
- [Management Briefs](#)
- [Veterans' Perspectives](#)

### PUBLICATION NOTIFICATION

#### ATTENTION HSR&D Researchers

**\*\*Required Notification\*\*** of Articles Accepted for Publication

[Attribution](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Management Brief : [Primary Care Engagement among Veterans with Experiences of Homelessness and Serious Mental Illness: An Evidence Map](#) (05-04-2021)

Management Brief : [Systematic Review: Population and Community-based Interventions](#)

### Studies & Citations

Search studies and implementation projects (newly funded, current, completed); portfolios with descriptions and contacts; citations (by center, journal, keyword, or QUERI projects and evaluations); and related publication briefs summarizing the findings.

## HSR&D Research Studies and Implementation Projects

NOTE: data kept current with daily downloads

Search Projects:

Browse studies and projects sorted by:

- [Newly Funded](#) | [Current Studies](#) | [Completed Studies](#)
- [Designated Research Area \(DRA\)](#)
- [Designated Research Element \(DRE\)](#)
- [Portfolio and Project Categories](#)
- [Centers \(Centers of Innovation, Resource Center\)](#)

## Database of HSR&D Citations

This database contains citations from journals, meetings, conferences, and reports that were credited to HSR&D researchers.

Search all HSR&D citations using the form below or focus your search by the following categories:

- [HSR&D Center](#)
- [Source](#) (e.g. journal title, conference title)
- [Keyword\(s\) in the Title](#)

NOTE: data kept current with daily downloads

Search HSR&D Citations

Author:	<input type="text"/>
Title words:	<input type="text"/>
Year:	<input type="text" value="any year"/>
<input type="button" value="Search"/>	

### PUBLICATION NOTIFICATION

- [Publication Requirements](#)
- [Notification Process](#)
- [Attribution](#)
- [Disclaimer](#)

## Additional Resources

### HSR&D Resource Centers

HSR&D-funded national [Resource Centers](#) are the go-to resources for information on data access, data use, data resources, econometrics data, and dissemination resources.

- [Center for Information Dissemination and Education Resources](#) (CIDER). CIDER is the major conduit for dissemination and educational support services for HSR&D. [CIDER products](#) range from publications to webinars to conference organization and production.
- [Health Economics Resource Center](#) (HERC): HERC helps VA researchers determine the cost of VA care, assess cost-effectiveness, and evaluate the efficiency of VA programs and providers. HERC offers a variety of products and services including [consulting](#), resolutions to [common data issues](#), and [analytic methods](#) guidance.
- [VA Information Resource Center](#) (VIREC). VIREC's mission is to advance VA capacity to use data effectively for research and quality improvement and to foster communication between research data users and the VA healthcare community.

In addition to these three HSR&D Resource Centers, the Office of Research and Development (ORD) hosts the [VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure](#) (VINCI). VINCI seeks to continually improve researchers' access to VA data and facilitate the analysis of those data while ensuring Veterans' privacy and data security. Additional information about VINCI, as well as [applications and data access portals](#), can be found on the VA intranet.

### For More VA Research Information

- Visit the [Quality Enhancement Research Initiative](#) (QUERI) website to find implementation science resources, project descriptions, and subscribe to QUERI News.
- Visit the [Office of Research and Development's website](#) to learn more about VA's overall research program, and other [VA research services](#).